

Message Text

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70 -60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-06 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 NSF-02 EB-07 MED-03 L-03 SCA-01

SCSE-00 NSC-05 AGR-10 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01 INRE-00

NSCE-00 OPR-02 DODE-00 SSO-00 /099 W

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2399

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMDT COGARD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FW, CASC, AEMR, TGEN

SUBJECT: COMMO TEAM- GUADELOUPE

REF: STATE 211660

1. FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMED US OF APPROVAL OF TWO-MAN COAST GUARD COMMO TEAM FOR GUADELOUPE. TEAM SHOULD WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES AT ALL TIMES. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CABLE US DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL SO THAT WE CAN ASSIST TEAM IN SETTLING IN. WE WILL NEED A DESCRIPTION OF THE KIND OF INSTALLATION IS ENVISAGED. WITH THIS INFORMATION, WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO RENDER THE TEAM ASSISTANCE.

2. ELECTRICAL POWER ON GUADELOUPE IS 50 CYCLE 220 VOLT. GASOLINE AVAILABLE.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT CLEAR ABOUT WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT THE

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COAST GUARD HAS IN MIND TO BRING, WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT

FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE SET BEST SUITED FOR USE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE A COLLINS KWM2A WHICH COULD PRESUMABLY BE INSTALLED WITH EASE IN THE TEAMS QUARTERS AND WHICH WOULD AVOID SHIPPING A TRUCK DRAWN TRAILER UNIT. WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO KEEP THE TEAMS' PRESENCE INCONSPICUOUS AND UNLESS A TRAILER UNIT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IT SHOULD BE AVOIDED. QUARTERS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND WE TENTATIVELY PLAN ON HOUSING THE COMMO UNIT IN A HOTEL WHERE A RADIO COULD BE MOUNTED. COAST GUARD SHOULD NOTE THAT PER DIEM IN GUADELOUPE IS DLS 52 DAILY AND TEAM SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY HOTEL AND FOOD COSTS USING LOCAL BANKS FOR CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS AS NO USG EXCHANGE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE THERE.

4. WE SHOULD ADD THAT WE HAVE NOW BEGUN TO DOUBT THE VALUE OF BRINGING A COMMO TEAM TO GUADELOUPE IN VIEW OF THE INCONCLUSIVENESS OF THE VOLCANO'S CONTINUING ACTIVITY. A CATASTROPHIC ERUPTION SEEMS LESS LIKELY NOW THAN EARLIER, AND THERE ARE NOW FAR FEWER U.S. CITIZENS, PERHAPS 100 IN ALL, WHO WOULD NEED TO BE EVACUATED. BUT WE CONSIDER EVACUATION OF ALL TO BE A MOST UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY, NECESSARY ONLY IF AN ERUPTION WERE SO MASSIVE THAT ALL OF BASSE-TERRE AND PART OF GRANDE TERRE WERE DEVASTATED. IT APPEARS TO US THAT A COMMO UNIT SHOULD RATHER BE DESPATCHED IMMEDIATELY UPON THE OCCURENCE OF A MAJOR ERUPTION. IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS THE VOLCANO HAS BEEN STABLE, ALTHOUGH AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY THAN HERETOFORE. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE EXPERTS, CAN FORETELL WHEN OR IF AN ERUPTION WILL TAKE PLACE. MEANWHILE THERE ARE NO US CITIZENS IN THE DANGER AREA AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF TOURISTS AT THE CLUB MEDS, WITH ALMOST ALL US CITIZENS RESIDENTS ARE NOW LOCATED ON GRANDE TERRE. SHACKLETON

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